

SENATE BILL No. 134

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-12-16.

Synopsis: Hoosier youth corps program. Establishes the Hoosier youth corps program (program) to provide college students summer internships with state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to help meet critical community needs. Provides that the commission for higher education is the program administrator. Provides that an internship must provide work for at least 30 hours per week for at least 10 weeks, and pay a weekly stipend of at least \$50. Provides that the employer offering the internship is responsible for selecting and supervising program participants taking part in the employer's internships. Provides that a program participant who successfully completes an internship is entitled to receive a tuition grant of up to \$2,500 for use at an approved postsecondary educational institution. Establishes the Hoosier youth corps program fund to pay the tuition grants offered by the program.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

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January 5, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Appropriations.



Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 134

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-12-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2016]:

4 **Chapter 16. Hoosier Youth Corps Program**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "employer" means any of the**
6 **following:**

7 **(1) The executive, legislative, or judicial branches of state**
8 **government, or an agency, board, commission, department,**
9 **division, institution, office, or other instrumentality of state**
10 **government.**

11 **(2) A political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13) and an**
12 **agency, board, commission, department, division, institution,**
13 **office, or other instrumentality of a unit of local government.**

14 **(3) A nonprofit association or organization that qualifies as**
15 **tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue**
16 **Code.**

17 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the Hoosier**



1 youth corps program fund established by section 12 of this chapter.

2 Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the Hoosier
3 youth corps program established by section 6 of this chapter.

4 Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "program participant" means an
5 individual who submits an application and meets the requirements
6 of section 7(a) of this chapter.

7 Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "qualified employer" means an
8 employer that offers an internship that meets the requirements of
9 section 9 of this chapter.

10 Sec. 6. (a) The Hoosier youth corps program is established to
11 encourage college students to engage in summer internships with
12 state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to help
13 meet critical community needs in areas such as education, public
14 safety, social services, health, and the environment.

15 (b) The commission shall administer the Hoosier youth corps
16 program.

17 Sec. 7. (a) An individual is eligible for an internship in the
18 program if the individual meets the following requirements:

19 (1) The individual is a resident of Indiana, as defined by the
20 commission.

21 (2) The individual:

22 (A) is enrolled in an approved postsecondary educational
23 institution (as defined in IC 21-7-13-6(a)) and making
24 satisfactory progress, as determined by the commission,
25 toward completion of a course of study that leads to an
26 associate or baccalaureate degree or a technical certificate;
27 or

28 (B) has:

29 (i) completed, or will complete by the end of the current
30 academic year, a program of study at an approved
31 secondary school; or

32 (ii) been granted a high school equivalency certificate or
33 diploma;

34 and will enroll, not later than the beginning of the next
35 academic year, in an approved postsecondary educational
36 institution (as defined in IC 21-7-13-6(a)) in a course of
37 study that leads to an associate or baccalaureate degree or
38 a technical certificate.

39 (3) The individual meets any other requirements established
40 by the commission.

41 (b) An individual who wants to participate in the program shall
42 submit to the commission a properly completed written application



1 in a form specified by the commission.

2 (c) The commission shall notify each individual who submits an
3 application:

4 (1) that the individual meets the requirements under
5 subsection (a) and is a program participant eligible for an
6 internship; or

7 (2) the reason or reasons why the individual does not meet the
8 requirements under subsection (a).

9 Sec. 8. (a) The commission shall make available to program
10 participants information about:

11 (1) qualified employers with available internships; and

12 (2) the process of applying with those qualified employers.

13 (b) The commission shall establish an online source that enables
14 a program participant to:

15 (1) obtain information about qualified employers with
16 available internships; and

17 (2) apply for available internships.

18 (c) A program participant may continue to apply for available
19 internships until the participant accepts an internship with a
20 qualified employer.

21 Sec. 9. (a) To become a qualified employer, an employer must
22 offer an internship that meets the following requirements:

23 (1) The work to be performed by the intern must help meet
24 critical community needs that are not being met by the
25 employer's current employees in areas such as education,
26 public safety, social services, health, and the environment.

27 (2) The internship must provide work for at least thirty (30)
28 hours each week for at least ten (10) weeks.

29 (3) The internship must offer a stipend paid by the employer
30 of at least fifty dollars (\$50) for each week in which the intern
31 performs work for the qualified employer.

32 (4) The internship must comply with any other requirements
33 established by the commission.

34 (b) The commission shall determine whether a proposed
35 internship meets the requirements listed in subsection (a) and
36 notify the employer of its decision.

37 (c) The number of internships approved each year by the
38 commission may not exceed the number of tuition grants available
39 for the year under section 11 of this chapter.

40 Sec. 10. (a) An employer that has an internship approved by the
41 commission under section 9 of this chapter becomes a qualified
42 employer.



1 (b) Each qualified employer is responsible for selecting and
 2 supervising program participants taking part in the employer's
 3 internships.

4 (c) A qualified employer shall agree to provide to the
 5 commission:

6 (1) information necessary for the commission to list the
 7 qualified employer's internships on the commission's online
 8 source described in section 8(b) of this chapter; and

9 (2) records and reports necessary to document each intern's
 10 performance during the internship, including whether the
 11 intern successfully completed the internship.

12 Sec. 11. (a) A program participant who successfully completes
 13 an internship offered under this chapter is entitled to receive a
 14 tuition grant for use at an approved postsecondary educational
 15 institution (as defined in IC 21-7-13-6(a)).

16 (b) The total number of tuition grants given under this section
 17 is limited to the amount appropriated by the general assembly.

18 (c) The maximum tuition grant that a program participant may
 19 receive is the lesser of:

20 (1) the program participant's tuition for the academic year
 21 that immediately follows the individual's internship; or

22 (2) two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

23 (d) The commission shall distribute the tuition grants made to
 24 program participants on a first come, first served basis.

25 Sec. 12. (a) The Hoosier youth corps program fund is
 26 established to provide the financial resources necessary to pay
 27 tuition grants to program participants.

28 (b) The fund consists of the following:

29 (1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.

30 (2) Donations to the fund.

31 (3) Interest.

32 (4) Money transferred to the fund from other funds.

33 (5) Money from any other source transferred or appropriated
 34 to the fund.

35 Sec. 13. (a) The commission shall administer the fund.

36 (b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from
 37 money in the fund.

38 (c) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
 39 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
 40 manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that
 41 accrues from the investments shall be deposited in the fund.

42 (d) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not



1 revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used for
2 providing money for grants under this chapter.

3 Sec. 14. The commission may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2,
4 including emergency rules under IC 4-22-2-37.1, to implement this
5 chapter.

